



Bulletin

November 1983

President: Neil Kaltman, K6SMF □ Vice President: Joe Locascio, K5KT
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Directors: Jim Stevenson, KM6B; Don Bostrom, N6IC; Jim Rafferty, N6RJ; Bob Cobb, W6CN (membership); Mike Hudgens, W6YQ (bulletin)

Next meeting: Thursday, November 10 at 7:30 PM in the DWP Cafeteria, 111 Hope Street.

Wayne Overbeck, N6NB, will have a presentation on the home computer and how it can be applied to DXing. You don't want to miss this one.

Another rare one...vintage 1947: Car Nicobar

By Jim Smith, VK9NS

As a young signals type in the RAF, I was posted to Changi in Singapore. In those days (1946, 47, 48) much of our time was spent preparing Dakota aircraft for return to Egypt. This was one of the collecting points for material supplied under Lease Lend.

Very keen...we got stuck into BC375, BC348, SCR522 and all the Command Series equipment. We marveled at the workmanship and top quality components used. These and many others were the source of bits and pieces for the Home Brewer.

Anyway, to get to the point of all this, one day my Commanding Officer informed me that I was going on detachment to the Nicobar Group. Car Nicobar Island was an important signpost on the way for the aircraft as they staged back to Egypt via Ceylon. A major high-powered MF beacon provided valuable enroute DF.

All too soon I was on my way for a one-year stint on this island I knew nothing about. All agreed, however, I was very lucky to get such a post. After a forced ten-day stay in Butterworth in North Malaya due to a polio scare (we were put in immediate quarantine on arrival from Singapore), we were finally on our way. We boarded the Dakota for the 500-mile haul to Car Nicobar.

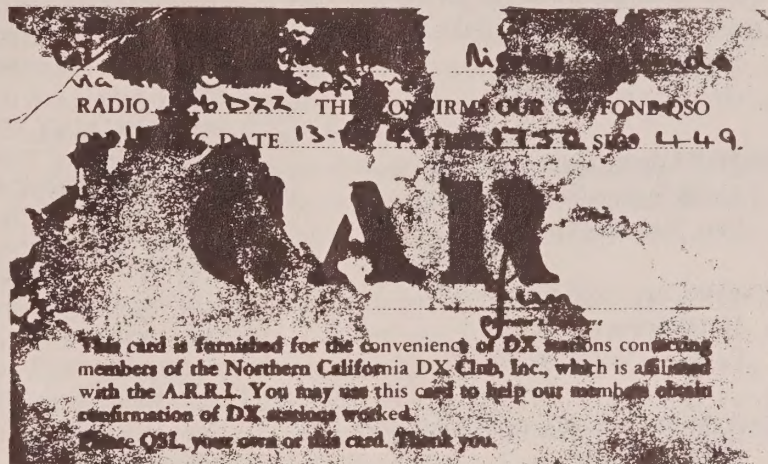
The sight of the island was breathtaking, especially to a newcomer to international travel. A short two-day handover...and the newcomers were in charge.

Basically, the 12-man detachment supported the Signals Staff as we kept the beacon going under all the usual tropical faults. The climate was very humid. In addition, there was an airfield for a possible diversion for our staging aircraft. An idealistic life with hard work thrown in but a local population who thought the world of us (they had been occupied by the Japanese).

I became more and more amazed at Fitz, our radio operator, as he handled mountains of traffic all on CW. Several weeks later I could send and receive Morse at a reasonable rate; in fact, I even helped with traffic in due course.

Fitz had vaguely talked about the amateur bands as a source of plain language practise. As he patiently explained *es*, *bcnu*, *73*, *QTH*, etc. I became really hooked. Using the station's standby AR88 I started to monitor CW and phone on 20 metres. Only the one above knows how many BC610s were in use in the Pacific area. Many of the signals were just tremendous. All seemed to be AA: KG6AA, KP6AA, KX6AA....

So it was the amateur bands for me and CAR appeared on the



20-metre band. My first QSO was with Robbie, VQ4ERR. I had followed him for some time and he was always outstanding. We were to touch base many times over the years.

Harry, VS7PH (also XZ2PH) was also a strong guiding influence as he helped me along my slightly illegal path. Drawings of a simple 6V6-6L6 rig followed, and everything done to improve the signal. The transmitter used was our backup T1154, an RAF transmitter on all our bombers. It was the usual MO/PA design with a massive chunking relay which changed everything from Tx to RX in one foul swoop. On CW your arm ached and brain tired as you willed that relay across. The rig would drift through the 20-metre band; you reset it and the process started all over again.

Needless to say, I came to know the Sixes. W6AM, W6DZZ and others chased me up and down the band. I was to keep in touch with several of them over the years.

QSL? Oh, yes, we were quickly roped in to provide this, and most of my confirmations followed the same pattern: a letter written to confirm the QSO, sometimes with an apology about the rig. One Six sent me a 7-MHz crystal for doubling into the CW end of 20 metres. VQ4ERR was probably my first QSL and VS7PH the second. I have a photocopy of my letter to Robbie, supplied by him many years ago.

Ed, W6DZZ, sent me a ready-made card. Fill it up and sign. This is the one shown above. I am grateful to Ed for our brief telephone call during my recent trip to the States (and to the guy who got his number for me). Ed took me right back to my beginning in amateur radio, to Car Nicobar, and to my return to Singapore when I very soon became legal as VS1BQ.

DX news

BY1PK scheduled to be working the hordes on SSB through November 5 on 14145, 14195 and 21295 00-03z and 05-08z, and CW 25 KHz up from the band edge. The effort is that of **JA1MIN** and **JA1BK**.

Jarvis Island AD1S/KH5 scheduled November 5-10 160-10 meters; SSB 3797, 7090, 14195/295, 21300, 28600; CW 25 KHz up. QSLs to G. Adkins, AD1S, Box 32735, Oklahoma City, OK 73123.

Malpelo cards were already in many mailboxes at our deadline. QSL to HK3DDD, Edilberto Rojas M., Apto 25827, Bogota, Colombia.

Continued on page 2

Club news

This year, our annual Christmas party will again be held at the Proud Bird Restaurant, 11022 Aviation Blvd. The cost for this top sirloin meal will be \$17.50 per person. Dave Bell, W6AQ, is scheduled to speak. Wives and friends are welcome. Payment in full must be in the hands of the club treasurer, Don Moses, W6UY, by December 5. His address is 5618 Scotwood Drive, Rancho Palos Verdes 90274.

—K5KT

New members as of mid October:
ND6G James Bradbury (full)
 15658 Celtic St.
 Granada Hills 91344

W6MDH Jerry Dubson (full)
 14638 Sylvan St.
 Van Nuys 91411

NN6W Gary Field (full)
 16702 Spruce Circle
 Fountain Valley 92708

I0MGM Mario Gallavotti (honorary)
 Via Cassia 929
 00189 Roma, Italy

N6CGB Dan Davitt has upgraded to full member.

—W6CN

Minutes of the last meeting

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 by Neil Kaltman, K6SMF, SCDXC president.

Irv, W6GC, updated us on the Olympic Village status.

Guests included Mario, I0MGM, of recent 1A0KM fame, along with ZL3CC and KB6BPN.

Larry Brockman, N6AR, presented the main program on "How to Operate a Contest." His presentation covered choosing the contest, selecting a category, band/operating plans, strategy, operating tips, and how to submit an entry.

Mario, I0MGM, presented a special program. He showed slides of 1A0KM, the Knights of Malta station. His operation there in July fulfilled the DXCC needs of many of our members.

Proposed from the floor came the motion that Mario Gallavotti, I0MGM, be made an honorary SCDXC member. The motion passed overwhelmingly by the membership.

Prizes and recipients: Benchner iambic paddle to K3VA, MFJ 103 digital clock to K6HAE, ARRL *Callbook* to W6LEN, *The New Weather Satellite Handbook* to W6YLJ, *Interference Handbook* to KG6AR and KM6B, *Shortwave Propagation Handbook* to N6DMV, *Secrets of Ham Radio DXing* to W6NNV, *73 Dipole and Longwire Antennas* to K6SMF, *Radio Amateur Antenna Handbook*

to KG6AR, *Propagation Wizard's Handbook* to W6EA and N6DVM, *Beam Antenna Handbook* to N6CGB, *All About Cubical Quads* to KB6WI, *The Contest Cookbook* to KB6BPN, *Hints & Kinks* to W6YLJ, *RFI* to KM6B, *The Radio Amateur's DX Guide* to WA6QCO, *The FCC Rule Book* to KB6WI. High pass filters, courtesy of HRO, were given to KM6B and KW6W.

After the drawings, the meeting was adjourned by K6SMF at 9:45.

—N6AW

Activity reports

K6YRA: 7Q7LW 7052 0420 (Sept 23); **FR0FLO** 7082 1345, **3B9FK** 7083 1355 (Sept 24); **C21BD** 3796 1357 (Sept 26); **VS6DO** 3795 1410, **VS6DO** 7085 1412 (Sept 27); **VE1CBK/1** (Sable) 3795 0509 (Sept 28); **CY0SPI** 7052 0454 (Sept 30); **4K1B** 7081 1315 (Oct 1); **YN1MAT** 3804 0450, **YN1MAT** 7203 0459, **FM7CD** 3793 0524, **ZL4DE/C** 3789 1325 (Oct 2); **5N8ARY** 3795 0213, **VK0GC** 7190 1100, **VK0GC** 3797 1230 (Oct 3); **UK1PGO** 7084 1414 (Oct 5); **T32AB** 3790 0440, **UA0FOH** 3645 1339 (Oct 6); **TU2NW** 7040 0046, **UA0FCL** 3649 1353 (Oct 8); **OX3BA** 7194 0522, **TR8IG** 7086 0550, **ZD7BW** 7090 0610 (Oct 9); **JD1AEV** 7079 1428 (Oct 10); **GM3BQA** 7055 0628 (Oct 11); **HK0TU** 7085 1146 (Oct 15); **OX3JL** 7071 0255 (Oct 16); **EA8ADP** 7090 0200 (Oct 23).

NG6W: CE0FCM/OZ 14071 0350 (Sept 28); **UI8LBO** 14011 1449, **7X2HM** 21305 1630 (Sept 29); **CR9WW** (via JH1AGU) 21008 0009, **UM8MBU** 14057 0143, **OY6FRA** 14029 1515 (Oct 1); **UM8MAQ** 14050 0158, **3B9FK** 7002 0212 (Oct 2); **UJ8JCQ** 14047 0242, **UJ8AW** 14034 0252 (Oct 7); **VR6KB** 7051 0707 (Oct 8); **UM8FJ** 14041 0232 (Oct 9); **UI8BL** 14048 1434, **AP2MQ** 14204 1647 (Oct 10); **VU2LE** 14221 1549 (Oct 11); **J28DP** 14012 0212, **3B8DB** 14022 0250, **UJ8AP** 14033 0340 (Oct 12); **UI8OK** 14027 0242 (Oct 13); **JD1BDA** (Minami Torashima via JA9AIX) 7003 1447 (Oct 14); **A22ME** 14023 2345 (Oct 15); **UM8FJ** 14050 0243 (Oct 16); **UA0YT** (Zone 23, Obl 159) 14017 0114, **LA2WW/9L1** 21335 1933 (Oct 22).

AB6R: FB8ZQ 7006 0107 (Oct 1); **4K1QAV** 14022 1355 (Oct 10); **HK0TU** 21025 1415 (Oct 14); **UJ8AG** 14010 0317, **TR8IG** 28020 1455 (Oct 15); **VK0GC** 28505 0227, **VK9NS** 28595 0300 (Oct 16); **KC7UU/5N6** 14027 0041, **W6QL/HK3** 14024 0241 (Oct 18); **UI8AAO** 14028 0241, **4K1GDW** 7007 0327 (Oct 19); **UK1PAC** 14013 0200 (Oct 20); **3D2ZM** 21014 2251 (Oct 23).

DX news

Continued from page 1

There's a rumor that ZL3AFH now on Kermadec, is putting up wire for some phone operation on 3635 and 3800. **Jim Smith** is on Kermadec the first week in February for eight days with three or four operators.

Desecheo possibility first week of January 1984 if **WP4ATF** and **HI3RST** can raise enough money. Contributions go to Jose I. Maldonado, P.O. Box 449, Palmer, Puerto Rico 00721. Money will be refunded if they don't go, says **WP4ATF**.

Niger 5U7 a possibility in December by **KC7UU/5N3**, heard now and then on 7006 at 0230.

Lloyd and **Iris** have **HC** scheduled as their next stop.

P29BR on 3505 at 1240z...**BY8AA** giving out two-minute QSOs on 14072 around 0130; QSL Box 607, Cheng Du...**JY9IU** on 21027 at 1415...**TR8IG** 7004 2230...**XU1SS** 14195 1100...**3X4EX** 21345 2350....

ZD7BW (16z), **J28DQ** (18z) and **C30CB** (07z) being worked on 20 RTTY with some regularity.

Contest calendar

Nov 13.....	Czech Test
Nov 12-13.....	WAE RTTY
Nov 19-20.....	ARRL Phone Sweeps
Nov 26-27.....	CQWW CW
Dec 3-5.....	ARRL 160-Meter
Dec 10-11.....	ARRL 10-Meter
Jan 27-29.....	CQWW 160 CW
Feb 11-12.....	Dutch PACC
Feb 18-19.....	ARRL DX CW
Feb 24-26.....	CQWW 160 SSB
Mar 3-4.....	ARRL DX Phone

—W1WY

Club members on Honor Roll

Mixed

315: **W6AM** (366), **W6EE** (362), **W6RT** (358), **W6ET** (353), **JA1BK** (348), **W6REH** (347), **N6AR** (345), **OH2BH** (343), **N6AV** (342), **K6YRA** (341), **W6EUF** (340). **314:** **K6OJ** (361), **W6TSD** (360), **W6BA** (359), **W6KZL** (356), **W6RKP** (355), **W6KG** (351), **K6EV** (346), **W6YA** (345), **W6FW** (344), **K6QH** (340). **313:** **W6HFL** (344). **312:** **W6ID** (357), **W7AO** (353), **W6QL** (336), **N6UC** (331), **W6GC** (328). **311:** **W6UQQ** (349), **W6KZS** (339), **YV5BBU** (334). **310:** **W6HX** (359), **N6AW** (328), **W6UY** (325). **309:** **W6SN** (348), **W6EJJ** (332), **N6RJ** (324). **308:** **W6PN** (335), **W6MUM** (333), **W6AE** (326). **306:** **W6BFW** (332), **W6DN** (323).

Phone

315: **W6AM** (364), **W6REH** (343), **W6EUF** (339). **314:** **W6RKP** (349). **313:** **JA1BK** (344), **W6HFL** (344), **K6YRA** (339), **N6AR** (337). **312:** **W6FW** (341), **N6UC** (331). **309:** **W6KZS** (331). **308:** **N6AW** (326).

CW

300: **WA6TLA** (305). **297:** **WB6RSE**.

(From QST listing; if your call belongs here, drop N6AW a line.)

60 years ago this month

The night spark died

By Jan Perkins, N6AW

Distances were severely limited in the spark era. The best stations would occasionally work several hundred miles on a good night, usually in wintertime. The bulk of amateur operation then was handling traffic, or ragchewing across town. The premier operators of the day might pass 1000 messages a month, relay style. Upward of 90 percent of the amateurs of the day belonged to ARRL.

Most stations operated on about 200 meters. The big guns were up in the to 800-meter range. Of course, the typical signal was about 100 meters wide. Selectivity was unknown in the early receivers. You simply copied the loudest signal.

In April 1917, all U.S. amateur stations were ordered off the air. Transmitters and receivers were dismantled, and antennas taken down. During the Great War, 80 per cent of the licensed amateur radio operators in the U.S. served in the Armed Forces, most as radio operators in France.

The value of their work and the skill of the operators is attested to by General Russell, Chief Signal Officer of the U.S. Signal Corps. He wrote:

On a certain occasion, some remarkably clever interceptions of German code messages were made that enabled the Americans associated with the British and French code men to work out a solution of the new code. The cleverness of this work is apparent when it is known that a failure to get correctly any one of three code messages would have defeated the accomplishment of this end. When it is known that these code messages are the hardest kind of messages to copy, and that in order to be sure of getting the valuable messages it has been necessary to copy several hundred useless ones per day over long periods of time, and that copying is done under difficult conditions and through interference which confuses all but the best operators, it is possible to appreciate the fine work which has been done. In this one case a few minutes' inattention, a single mistake in call letters, or the missing of a few groups in one

of the messages would have made the others useless. The American operators are the only ones who copied all three messages with sufficient accuracy to be useful.

In November 1919, a year after the war ended, amateur radio was again authorized, chiefly due to the efforts of H.P. Maxim. Each night saw dozens of stations returning to the air. Spark was said to be at its peak for the eighteen months that followed. Stations multiplied, and it was bedlam on the bands.

At about the same time, the first CW stations began to appear. Most of the tubes came from questionable military sources, or local radio stations. Few could receive these narrow signals. John Reinartz, 1QP, built the first of a series of CW tuners in 1920. Named after him, they were designed solely for CW work. Vacuum tube communication actually became feasible.

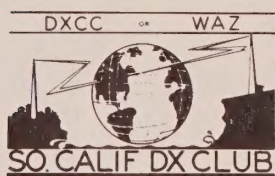
In February 1921, several hundred British listened during certain specified time periods for stateside signals. Unfortunately, with all the QRM from regenerative receivers interacting with each other, the results were nil.

In December 1921, a ten-day period for Transatlantic Tests was set aside. A prominent U.S. amateur, Paul Godley, 2XE, traveled to Scotland to do the receiving. He spent ten nights in a tent on a rainy, foggy moor, and he managed to copy 18 CW stations and 9 spark signals. The next November, another Transatlantic was arranged: 316 U.S. calls were heard, including two W6s.

Finally, on November 27, 1923, Leon Deloy, French 8AB, was transmitting on 100 meters. Schnell, 1MO, and Reinhartz, 1XAM, both worked him that evening. The Atlantic was bridged by CW, and so rang the death knell for spark.

State of the bands

Ten meters continues to improve, with European openings about 14-16z. Africa is best from 16-20z, and South America is sometimes heard from 18-02z. Southeast Asia from 0-03z has also been good.



Bulletin

Published monthly by the Southern
California DX Club.

Editor

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Stan Brokl, N2YQ
Chris Conner, KA6ISX

Send material for this bulletin to Mike Hudgens,
W6YQ, 10103 Lynrose, Temple City, CA 91780.

Fifteen is open to Europe from 1330-17z on a good day, but there are fewer long path openings this year. Central Asia and Scandinavia with watery signals are common about 01-02z. West Africa can be heard until 0330z.

Twenty long path is reliable from 1330-1530z. The Middle East short path peaks about 04z, but the East Coast has the advantage. Africa is best about 00-02z, and again at 07z. Europeans are weak at 0z, but build up almost all evening.

Forty long path over South America at sunset (01z) produces Zones 22, 29, 39 and 26 (when on). Also look over New Zealand from 13-15z for long path Europe and the Middle East. Africa is best from 03-06z.

Eighty, as always, is a nighttime band. Look at sunrise/sunset for peak activity.

—N6AW

Help needed

Recent stories have raised some good questions: How many did W6ODD work from Diu? Did anyone else operate there?

Send log data or copy of QSLs from Diu-Damao to N6AW.

Did you work VU7AH, circa 1947-1955? Send log/QSL data, or any other information to Jan Perkins, 11942 Bos St., Cerritos, CA 90701.

N4XX propagation

A, H, L, B, D—Above, High, Low, Below, Disturbed

5 A	9 L	13 B	17 H	21 L
6 A	10 L	14 D	18 H	22 L
7 A	11 L	15 H	19 H/L	23 H
8 A/L	12 L	16 H	20 L	24 H

Classified

CUSTOMIZED QSLs by W6BA, \$19.75 for 1000 plus shipping. No standard forms. We try to print what you want. Black ink on color 110-pound stock. Write for samples. Bill Adams, W6BA; Star Route 2, 29 Palms, CA 92277.

WANTED: 75S3 rcvr with double xtal deck and 200-Hz filter; round emblem preferred. Don, W6AM (213) 424-3459 or 377-4120.

MONITOR: 9-inch B&W; excellent shape for RTTY or computer use, with manual: \$95. Irv, W6GC (213) 545-5970.

FIVE-ELEMENT 20-meter yagi w/40-foot boom; extra strong, high strength aluminum; double wall boom and elements; will deliver within 25-mile radius. Make me an offer. Roger, W6RW (213) 654-3714.

TS830S w/both CW filters, MC50 mike: \$750. VFO-120: \$100. IC730 w/400 Hz and passband tuning filters, SM-5 mike: \$600. PS-740 switching type 20-amp p/s: \$100. Offers accepted on all items. Jim, AB6R (714) 995-8948 (home) or (714) 732-9381 (work).

VIKING phone patch, \$25. Mike, W6YQ (213) 445-0700.



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